



February 6, 2023

Senator Maher, Representative Linehan, and members of the Committee on Children. My name is Mark Pooler with the Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs and I am submitting comments in support of SB 929, An Act Expanding School Meal Programs to Provide Free School Meals to All Students.

Food costs increased over 10% in 2022. Many families are finding more difficult to provide their children with a nutritious meal. Unfortunately, the only meal some children received during the day is the breakfast and lunch provided at our schools. I believe that providing the children of Connecticut with a free meal is a necessity. Children should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from. For a child to perform at his or her best, they need a nutritious meal.

Eating lunch is a key part of staying healthy and happy, and doing well in school. I urge you to support this legislation to support Connecticut's children

Sincerely,

Mark Pooler
Chief Executive Officer
SOUTHINGTON-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCAs

Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs

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YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Financial assistance available for qualifying individuals and families.

The YMCA is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization.